

# Zero Beat

Our 34<sup>th</sup> Year

A Publication of the Hampden County Radio Association

November 1999

## GOING ONCE GOING TWICE SOLD

**Join Us on Friday, November 5th  
Doors Open at 7:PM,  
Short Club Meeting begins at 7:15  
AUCTION starts at 7:30**

The Annual HCRA Ham Auction is this Friday, November 5<sup>th</sup>!!!  
Last year it was standing room only, and we have no reason  
To believe it will be any less this year!!!  
Bring your extra "stuff" and turn it into cash, and/or  
Buy some extra "stuff"!!!

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# From the President's Shack *de W6IS*

The big event most all of us have been waiting for is just about to happen. The bigger and better HCRA annual auction Friday November 5. Start getting all that surplus equipment ready for auction. Make a list of your needs. Or even if you have nothing on your want list or nothing to put up for auction come on down anyway for bargains that you will not be able to resist and a real good fun time. Jim (WA1ZUH) and Jim (WB1Z) our esteemed auctioneers will be there again to keep things rolling and entertaining all evening long. Tickets will still be available for the big raffle an Icom Tri-Band HT. There is a limit of only two hundred tickets to be sold at a donation of five dollars, which makes the chances of winning pretty good. You can get yours at the night of the club meeting.

Here is a wrap up of the special event station WB1HOF at the Basketball Hall Of Fame. We made about three hundred Q's mostly on 40m, a good portion on 20m, and a few on 15m. It seemed the biggest interest for special event contacts was on forty meters. I would like to again thank everyone that participated in putting the event together. The group that set up and took down the antennas and station equipment, all the operators and loggers, and those of you that loaned there equipment to the club for the event. A special thanks to Jim (WB1Z) who chaired the event and put everything together.

Mark your calendar for our pot luck holiday dinner Friday December 3. Contact Betty, KB1CPZ (567-5782) or any of the club officers to let them know the dish your bringing. Everyone is welcome and in the event you can't bring a dish, that's ok just bring yourself. A great evening is planned. Yorke (K1BXE) and Betty (WB1FIQ) will present a slide show of their cross country ham vacation to Alaska.

A reminder if have not already done so please take a moment to fill out your club renewal and bring it with you to the November meeting. If by chance you can't make the meeting mail along with your check to the HCRA post office box. Your membership is important to us.

I'm looking forward to saying hello to all of you at the auction.

73 *de* *7ru*, **W6IS**

*It is with heartfelt sympathy that we note the  
Passing of Bob Buller,  
Husband of HCRA member, Betty Buller, KB1CPZ.*

*The HCRA Board of Directors wishes to  
Extend our condolences to Betty and  
Her family and friends.*

# MEMBERSHIP DRIVE 1999

We would like to increase our membership 1% this year.

As an incentive to bring in more members,

For each prospective NEW member that you bring as a guest  
to an HCRA meeting, you will receive

5 free tickets for that night's door prize drawing.

If the guest joins, he/she will also receive 5 free tickets.

## HCRA CONTACTS

Questions, Comments, and Suggestions Can Be Directed To:

### HCRA OFFICERS

President	Irv Slitzky, W6IS	(413) 565-5222	w6is1@juno.com
Vice-President	Walter Nero, WA1HHN	(860) 684-6650	wa1hhn@yahoo.com
Treasurer	Greg Stoddard, N1AEH	(860) 668-5143	
Secretary	Jim Mullen, WA1ZUH	(413) 245-3228	jmullen@rockys.com

### HCRA DIRECTORS

At Large	Les Prentice, N1DNX	(413) 783-6775	
Program	Yorke Phillips, K1BXE	(413) 566-3010	ypphil@juno.com
Membership	Larry Smith, K1ILZ	(413) 566-3966	kilzncet@aol.com
Newsletter	John Pise, KX1X	(413) 532-7474	kx1x@arrl.net
Technical	Jordan Koltz, W1JK	(413) 532-3729	w1jk@map.com

### STATION TRUSTEES

W1NY Trustee	Don Johnson, W1UPH	(413) 566-3560 (let it ring)	wluph2@juno.com
WB1HOF Trustee	Jim Mullen, WA1ZUH	(413) 245-3228	jmullen@rockys.com

### SAFETY & EMERGENCY

Safety Engineering      Peter Russell, KE1DQ      Emergency Coordinator      Dave Isham, KB1MU

## Mark your Appointment Calendars for Monday and Tuesday Nets

Join NCS Tom, N1MUV  
On Monday nights, 7:30PM local  
for the

**HCRA/W1NY 10m Net**

**28.375 +/- QRM**

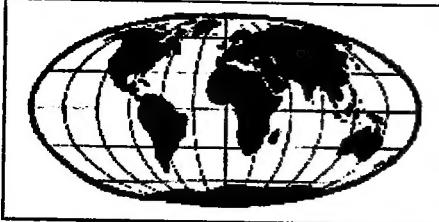
with 10m finally coming around  
who knows what DX may check in to our  
10m net!!! DX or not, you'll still be treated  
to information and good conversation.

Join NCS John, KX1X  
On Tuesday nights, 7:30PM local  
For the

**HCRA/W1NY 2m Net**

**147.105 (+600)**

Its Back!!! Lets make it better than ever!  
Join in for information and announcements.  
Members and non-members are  
invited to check in, even if just to say hello!!!



# DX Clips

de

**Jordy, W1JK**

This month I will start with a discussion of DX operating "ethics". What is considered acceptable operating practice? Is there a written "code of ethics" promulgated by the ARRL? The answer to the first question is - it depends on who you ask... many have their own narrowly defined rules. The answer to question 2 is - no!!! Where does this leave those of us who are avid Dxers? Most of us intuitively know what is clearly illegal or morally unacceptable... examples are: 1. Power above the legal limits; 2. Operation outside band limits; 3. Operation beyond that allowed by one's license class; 4. Deliberate interference; 5. Tuning-up on the DX xmit frequency; 6. Insulting fellow hams in the pileups, etc...

I think good common sense provides most of the answers. Be fair and considerate of your fellow Dxers. A little courtesy goes a LONG way in this hobby. I can attest to that by my personal experiences. Who knows?... it may provide a bonus - election to the A-1 operators club.

Although many would not agree with me - the following are acceptable operating practices (they are most certainly not illegal): 1. DX nets; 2. DX packet clusters; 3. Internet DX chat groups; 4. Requesting a DX station to QSY to another band to get a new "band-country".

Let us recognize that many of the so-called "rule - makers" have an "unfair advantage" by anybody's definition. DXCC by its very nature does not consider the concept of parity. Golf has its handicap system... DXCC groups every together: QRP, medium power, high power, monster antennas, dipoles, good locations, bad locations, sophisticated expensive equipment, old boat-anchors, etc.

You, the Dxer, know what you have. Those with modest stations should derive more satisfaction in attaining their DXCC goals. That is the bottom line.

Many of the "rule-makers" have an advantage. Is it unfair? That, my friends, is in the eyes of the beholder. Examples:

1. Retirees - can operate while others are working
2. Those with job flexibility - can take off almost anytime.
3. Operating time unlimited types - part time workers, physically handicapped (is that an advantage?)
4. The guy with the California KW... it's really 6KW output.
5. The guy with a fortune invested in his station.
6. The remote controlled station - it operates from anywhere via telephone.
7. The Dxers who share info real-time with friends., ETC...

The point I wish to make is that DX is NOT an equal opportunity pursuit. All of us can enjoy it if we put things in the proper perspective. Ham Radio is a "Hobby" and has many facets and variations. HAVE FUN!!

Don't forget the CQWW DX (CW) Contest is 0000Z Nov. 27 to 2400Z Nov. 28. This is a great opportunity to add to your countries total in just one weekend.

LOOK FOR: 3W6 - Vietnam... Mike, NOODK active Nov. 15 - 29 as 3W6DK mostly on 15m and 20m SSB. QSL NOODK. 3XY - Guinea... Dennis, VE2DPS active until Dec. 22 as 3XY2D mostly on 10m & 20m - above 28500 KHz and around 14190Khz. QSL via VE2DPS.

FOO - Clipperton... mark your calendars for March, 2000 Dxpedition. I will remind you in future editions.

HBO - Liechtenstein... Active Oct. 29 thru Nov. 7<sup>th</sup> 160m - 10m all modes. Calls -> HBO/DL2SBY & HBO/SP2FOV QSL home call.

VK9 - Lord Howe Island.. Dee, W1HEO will be operating 5 days from October 24. Callsign = VK9LM on 20m & 15m SSB & CW. QSL via W1HEO.

VP2 - Montserrat... VP2MCS from Oct. 25 thru Nov. 9<sup>th</sup> 160m-6m mostly SSB. QSL via Chris, DL5NAM.

See you next month.

**de Jordy Koltz W1JK. W1JK@MAP.COM**

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## HAMPDEN COUNTY RADIO ASSOCIATION

Board of Directors Meeting, October 7, 1999

Held at Irv Slitzky's, Longmeadow, MA

HCRA Officers present were: Irv Slitzky, W6IS; Jim Mullen, WA1ZUH; Larry Smith, K1ILZ; Don Johnson, W1UPH; Greg Stoddard, N1AEH and John Pise, KX1X.

Irv opened the meeting by greeting all in attendance and handing out a meeting agenda.

### REPORTS:

**President:** Opened meeting with discussion concerning lack of attendance of club officers. Efforts to contact Dave, N1TQP and Kurt, W1OBQ have been unsuccessful. Neither has been able to attend any board meetings or club functions since their election to the "at-large" and "technical" board positions. Because the proper operation of the HCRA requires a commitment of the board members, the board voted to fill these positions with Les, KA1DNX, for the "at-large" position and Jordy, W1JK, in the "technical" position. Good luck to Les and Jordy in their new positions.

**Vice President:** Not present.

**Treasurer:** Present HCRA bank balance is \$1137. Seventeen members signed up or renewed at Friday's meeting. The small raffle collected \$122, the Auction raffle collected \$10. Expenses for the small raffle were \$58.

**Secretary:** A new roster will be generated after the November meeting. At that time membership cards will be issued. Present member status is: 52 Regular members, 2 Life members, 1 Honorary member, 18 Family members, for a total of 63.

**Auction:** Flyers have been printed, mailed and handed out at flea markets. Internet postings will go out to local clubs next week. All board members are asked to support the raffle ticket sales to make this a success.

**Newsletter:** John is near completion on digitizing the HCRA logo. Plenty of info for the November Zero Beat, looking for submissions for later issues. Important dates to remember are: Deadline for submissions: October 28th, Next meeting November 5th.

**Technical:** Not present.

**Program:** Yorke was not present. November will be the Auction, December will be a combination of a presentation by Yorke of his Alaskan trip and our annual pot-luck supper. Pat, N1CET and Betty, KB1CPZ are arranging the supper and are looking for additional helpers. Contact them or Irv if you would like to help out. Irv has contacted Matt, KC1XX, for a potential tower or contest talk in 2000.

**At Large:** Not present

**Membership:** Ten Zero Beats were mailed out to potential members in Wilbraham last month. Hampden will be targeted this month. November will be the last full mailing of Zero Beat based on LYs roster. A final renewal notice will accompany that issue.

**Station Trustee:** Don had no comments concerning the W1NY call or use thereof.

**Special Event Station:** Irv recapped the special event station at the Basketball Hall of Fame. Everything came off without a hitch, the set-up and antennas worked well and over 300 contacts were made. The staff at the Hall of Fame was pleased with the results. Twenty-four QSL cards have already been received! It looks like this could be an annual event for the HCRA, and a signature event at that. Thanks to Jim, WB1Z and his crew for a job well done. An antenna removal party is scheduled at the HOF for Sunday, October 10, 1999.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Jim Mullen, WA1ZUH, Secretary

**PLEASE!!!**

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KM4NZ

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**Fantastic Raffle Prize**  
**ICOM IC-T8A**  
**Tri-Band HT**  
**Plus free battery pack**



# AUCTION

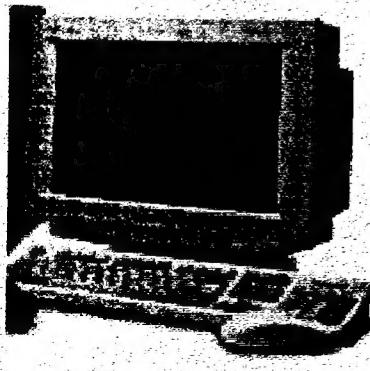
## November 5th !!!

*Turn your old 'stuff' into cash!*

- Set-up at 6:30 PM
- Club meeting at 7:15 PM
- Auction starts at 7:30 PM
- Win a Tri-band HT!
- Coffee & Donuts!
- Lots of bargains!



Contact Irv, W6IS, for further details - 413-563-5222 or [w6is1@juno.com](mailto:w6is1@juno.com)



**Auction held at:**

Feeding Hills Congregational Church  
21 North Westfield Street  
Feeding Hills, MA 01030

Just North of Dunkin' Donuts at the  
intersection of routes 57 and 159.  
Talk-in on the 147.105 repeater

**AUCTION RULES:**

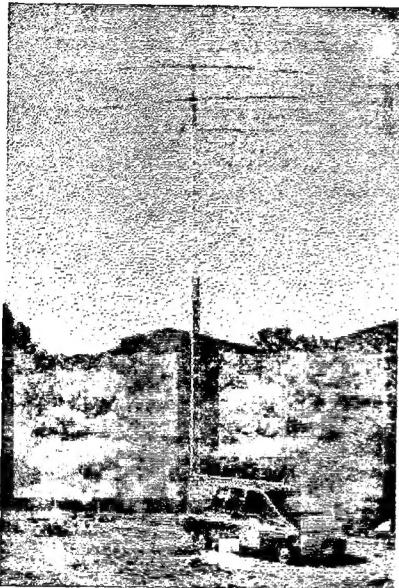
Amateur radio or computer related items only.  
Mark all items with name/call and minimum  
acceptable bid.

Items without minimum will sell at any price!  
10% of selling price goes to the HCRA.

If it doesn't sell - you bring it home!

# HCRA Photo Album

## Field Day 1999

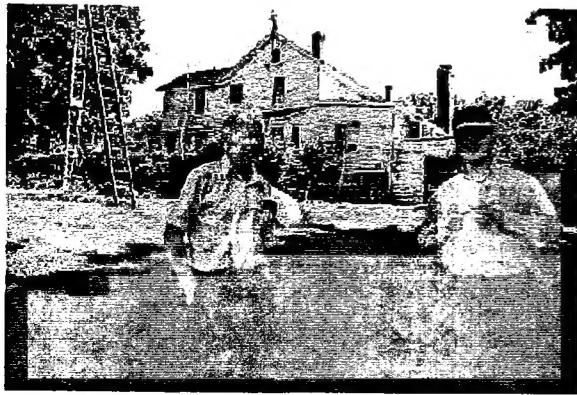
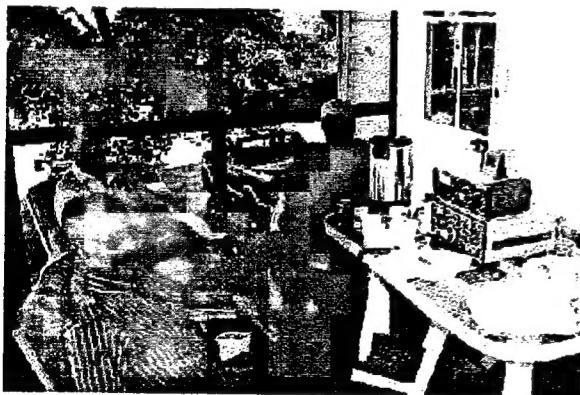


← The latest in mobile HF antennas, no low clearance bridges for this baby. Parking Fee has just now gone over \$1,000.



(Above) When the bands get slow, the cushions look sooooo... inviting. John, KX1X, just couldn't resist resting the eyeballs and the voicebox.

(Below) Hey, Jordy, W1JK, there's no points for DXing in this event!!! Dave, KB1MU, is logging the "ZL" contact anyway.





# SKYWARN

# WORDS OF WINTER

BY

**Eric Tuller N1QKO**

Hello to all, Now that summer is over and the leaves are falling. It's time to get ready for winter. Can you find your snow shovel? This month, to get every one in the mood for snow, I'd like to re familiarize you with the different watches and warnings.

**WINTER STORM WATCH:** sever winter weather conditions may affect your area.  
(freezing rain,sleet,heavy snow may occur)

**WINTER STORM WARNING:** severe winter weather conditions are imminent or occurring.

**HEAVY SNOW WARNING:** a snow fall of at least 4 inches in 12 hours or 6 inches in 24 hours is expected.  
(under certain conditions,heavy snow may be included in W.S.Warning)

**BLIZZARD WARNING:** considerable falling and/or blowing snow and winds of at least 35 miles per hour are expected for several hours.

**HIGH WIND WARNING:** sustained winds of at least 40 miles per hour or gusts of at least 50 miles per or greater are expected to last for at least one hour.

Know how to protect your self:

**BEFORE THE STORM:** prepare- automobile, battery powered equipment, heating fuel, food, and other supplies.

**DURING AND AFTER THE STORM:** dress warmly-wear multiple layers of clothing, scarves, mittens.

**AVOID TRAVEL:** if stranded, stay in your vehicle, keep it ventilated, bundle up.

**AVOID OVEREXERTION:** shoveling snow or freeing stuck vehicles can be extremely hard work. Don't overdo it!

73 de Eric, N1QKO

Congratulations to  
**Lisa Nelson, N1JOF**

Lisa is the daughter of long time HCRA member, Steve Nelson, WA1EYF.

Lisa was recognized in  
September, 1999, QST magazine as being the recipient of an  
ARRL sponsored Scholarship.

Lisa is currently attending Carnegie Mellon.



# HAMPDEN COUNTY RADIO ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 562  
Agawam, MA 01001



## Application for new or renewal membership

### Personal Information:

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ CALLSIGN: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ LICENSE CLASS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE: Home (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_

Work (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_ ext

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ @ \_\_\_\_\_ BIRTHDATE: \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

### Membership Information:

Type of application:  New  Renewal

Class of application:  Regular  Family

*Donations are tax  
deductible!*

*Thanks!*

Dues are \$10.00/year for regular membership.  
Additional family members are free.

Annual Dues: \$ 10.00

Donation: \$ \_\_\_\_ .00

Total: \$ \_\_\_\_ .00

Would you like to receive "ZeroBeat" via e-mail?  
 Yes  No  No Preference

### Amateur Radio Interests:

Are you an ARRL member?  Yes  No

Are you a Volunteer Examiner  Yes  No



Please check any and all interests that apply:

HF  VHF  UHF  Repeaters  Satellite  Digital Modes  DX  
 Contests  Field Day  Technical/Construction  
 Emergency Communication  Training  Assist with club functions

THIS WILL BE YOUR LAST ISSUE OF

# Zero Beat

*In order to continue to receive the HCRA newsletter, please fill out the handy application on the back of this page, and submit it with your membership fee at the next meeting, November 5<sup>th</sup>, 1999, or by return mail.*

HCRA  
P.O. Box 562  
Agawam, Massachusetts  
01001

